

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

23 THIS MATTER having come before the Court on the Pfizer Defendants' Expedited
24 Motion to Dismiss Plaintiffs' Claims with Prejudice; the parties having received due notice and
25 having had the opportunity to be heard; and this Court having considered all submissions made in
26 support of and in opposition to the motion, finds as follows:

27 Plaintiffs listed in the caption to this Order have failed to comply with Pretrial Order
28 No. 31 ("PTO 31") and Pretrial Order No. 35 ("PTO 35") by failing to provide Defendants with a

1 completed Docket Data Sheet (“DDS”) and documents responsive to the requests contained in the
 2 DDS (plaintiff Alvin Wright) and a Case-Specific Expert Report (May Joy Bradley, Maudie H.
 3 Davis, Bernice Maddox, and Dustin Stacy) (collectively, “the material required by PTO 31 and
 4 PTO 35”). Plaintiffs also have failed to comply with the orders issued by the Special Master,
 5 Judge Fern M. Smith (Ret.) on October 7, 2010 and December 16, 2010, requiring plaintiffs to
 6 provide the material required by PTO 31 and PTO 35 by October 14, 2010 and December 16,
 7 2010, respectively, or face dismissal with prejudice (“the Compliance Orders”). Plaintiffs’ failure
 8 is particularly egregious given the numerous efforts the Court and the parties have made to
 9 provide notice of Plaintiffs’ discovery obligations. (See Pfizer Defs.’ Mem. of P. & A. in Supp.
 10 of Mot., at 3-5; Declaration of Michelle W. Sadowsky in Supp. of Pfizer Defs.’ Mot. to Dismiss,
 11 ¶¶ 2-13.)

12 Based on these failures, the Court also finds as follows:

13 (1) The public’s interest in expeditious resolution of this litigation is compromised by
 14 Plaintiffs’ failure to comply with PTO 31 and PTO 35 and the Special Master’s Compliance
 15 Orders. This Court and the public have an overriding interest in securing the just, speedy, and
 16 inexpensive determination of every action. Plaintiffs’ delay is unreasonable and has impeded the
 17 resolution of these matters.

18 (2) The Court’s need to manage its docket is compromised by plaintiffs’ failure to
 19 comply with PTO 31 and PTO 35 and the Special Master’s Compliance Orders. The Court
 20 cannot effectively move forward with the cases in which plaintiffs have provided the required
 21 discovery when other plaintiffs have failed to do so. Dismissal of these Plaintiffs will serve to
 22 appropriately penalize these Plaintiffs for their non-compliance and also will encourage other
 23 plaintiffs to comply with this Court’s case management orders.

24 (3) Defendants are prejudiced by Plaintiffs’ failure to comply with PTO 31 and PTO
 25 35 and the Special Master’s Compliance Orders. Without the material required by PTO 31 and
 26 PTO 35, the Pfizer Defendants cannot meaningfully evaluate plaintiffs’ cases for resolution or
 27 evaluate other alternatives for disposing of plaintiffs’ cases.

28 (4) The public policy favoring disposition on the merits is overridden by Plaintiffs’

1 failure to comply with PTO 31 and PTO 35 and the Special Master's Compliance Orders. The
2 Court finds that Plaintiffs' failure to provide the required material obstructs resolution of their
3 claims on the merits. A case that is stalled or unreasonably delayed by a party's failure to comply
4 with deadlines and discovery obligations cannot move forward toward resolution on the merits.
5 Accordingly, this dismissal factor does not weigh in favor of Plaintiffs at all.

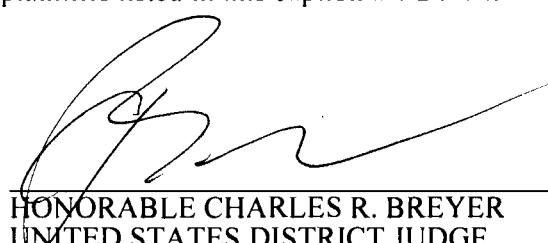
6 (5) There are no less drastic sanctions available to force Plaintiffs to comply with this
7 Court's orders. The Court finds that PTO 31 and PTO 35 (by reference to PTO 31) and the
8 Special Master's Compliance Orders both provide specific warnings stating that plaintiffs' claims
9 may be dismissed with prejudice for failure to comply with their obligations. The Court also
10 finds that Plaintiffs received warning letters from Defendants that prompted no response.

11 Accordingly, after weighing the dismissal factors discussed in *Malone v. U.S. Postal*
12 *Serv.*, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987), and *In re Phenylpropanolamine (PPA) Prods. Liab.*
13 *Litig.*, 460 F.3d 1217 (9th Cir. 2006), and in light of this Court's role in overseeing this
14 multidistrict litigation, the Court hereby finds that dismissal of Plaintiffs' claims with prejudice is
15 warranted.

16 THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the Pfizer Defendants' Expedited
17 Motion is GRANTED and the claims of the plaintiffs listed in this caption are DISMISSED
18 WITH PREJUDICE.

19 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

20 Dated: February 4, 2011



21 HONORABLE CHARLES R. BREYER
22 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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